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(SPACE BELOW FOR FILING STAMP ONLY)

Attorneys for Plaintiff, CHRISTOPHER LEE DUNN

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CENTRAL DISTRICT  
9

10 CHRISTOPHER LEE DUNN,

11 Plaintiff,

12 -vs-

13 CITY OF BURBANK; DENNIS A. BARLOW;  
14 AND DOES 1 THROUGH 25, INCLUSIVE.

15 Defendants.  
16  
17  
18  
19

CASE NO.: BC 418 792

**OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S  
DEMURRER OF COMPLAINT**

Date: October 6, 2009  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Dept.: 40

Complaint Filed: July 28, 2009

Assigned to: Department 40

20 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNSEL OF RECORD:

21 Plaintiff CHRISTOPHER LEE DUNN respectfully submits the following Memorandum of  
22 Points and Authorities in Opposition to the Demurrer of Defendants CITY OF BURBANK and  
23 DENNIS A. BARLOW to Plaintiff's Complaint:

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1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 **I. INTRODUCTION**

3 The instant motion pits the Defendant's right to disseminate private information to the media  
4 against Mr. Dunn's constitutional rights of privacy.

5 Plaintiff concedes that the Complaint was inartfully pleaded. It should properly contain no  
6 reference to *Penal Code* § 832.7, as Plaintiff agrees that no private right of action exists under that  
7 particular statute.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, the first cause of action in the complaint is for violation of article 1,  
8 section 1, of the California Constitution - not *Penal Code* § 832.7. The Privacy Initiative in article I,  
9 section 1, creates a right of action for invasion of privacy against private as well as government  
10 entities. Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn. (1994) 7 Cal. 4th 1, 20. It is equally well settled  
11 that employees have a right of privacy in their employment records. People v. Mooc (2001) 26  
12 Cal.4th 1216, 1220. For reasons discussed at length below, then, Plaintiff maintains that sufficient  
13 evidence exists to support a cause of action under the California Constitution such that the within  
14 motion should properly be denied.

15 The defamation cause of action is similarly actionable. As described below, Defendant  
16 Barlow made false, unprivileged statements to the press which charged Plaintiff Dunn with the  
17 commission of a crime, among other untrue things. No immunity exists and, therefore, the case  
18 should properly proceed on the merits, not be determined by dispositive motion at this early stage in  
19 the proceedings.

20 Lastly, Plaintiff concedes that the cause of action for injunctive relief may more properly  
21 have been pleaded as a remedy instead of a separate cause of action. This practice, however, is  
22 common in California and should not provide the basis for a demurrer under any circumstances.

23 Therefore, and for reasons more fully explained in detail below, Plaintiff respectfully  
24 maintains that each cause of action in the Complaint has been sufficiently pled such that Defendant's  
25 demurrer should properly be denied. Should the Court disagree, Plaintiff respectfully requests leave  
26 to amend the Complaint to comply with further Orders of the Court.

27  
28 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff respectfully requests that he be allowed to correct this error and file an amended  
pleading omitting *Penal Code* § 832.7.

## II. FACTS

On July 16, 2009, Christopher Lee Dunn filed suit against the City of Burbank ("COB") alleging that Plaintiff was discriminated and retaliated against while he was a police officer in the Burbank Police Department ("BPD") (lawsuit shall be hereinafter known as "Dunn I"). In connection with the lawsuit, Plaintiff's counsel made a statement to the media that the BPD has a "long history of tolerating" racial harassment and discrimination. In response to this relatively vague statement to various news sources, the Burbank City Attorney's Office, and City Attorney Carol A. Humiston, among others intentionally leaked (1) a "March 9, 2007, letter to Burbank Police Chief Tim Stehr (from) Los Angeles County District Atty. Steve Cooley," and (2) a "21-page notice of termination." Carol A. Humiston has declared under penalty of perjury that she was the person who gave the documents to the press. (See Declaration of Carol Humiston, filed in support of Defendant's Special Motion to Strike Plaintiff's Complaint, ¶ 3-7.)

Both the "March 9, 2007 letter" and the "21-page notice of termination" contained confidential information concerning the Plaintiff such as the classified investigations he took part in and personal identifying information. The information contained in these documents was detailed, highly confidential, attacked Plaintiff's character, and in no way refuted or addressed issues relating to a long history of tolerating or not tolerating discrimination or harassment. Rather, the document leak was calculated to smear the Plaintiff in the most humiliating possible manner in the media.

In response to this public smear campaign, one that went above and beyond the relatively vague and benign statement Plaintiff's counsel made to the media, Plaintiff filed the instant lawsuit. ("Dunn II").

## III. ROLE OF THE COURT IN A DEMURRER PROCEEDING

In ruling on a demurrer, the Court must "treat the demurrer as admitting all material facts properly pleaded, consider matters which may be judicially noticed, and give the complaint a reasonable interpretation, **reading it as a whole and its parts in their context.**" Zelig v. County of Los Angeles (2002) 27 Cal.4th 1112, 1126. (Bold added)

A demurrer is not concerned with the likelihood that the plaintiffs will prevail, nor even whether they have evidence to support their allegations. Accardi v. Superior Court (1993) 17 Cal.

1 App. 4th 341, 346. Instead, a demurrer admits, provisionally, for purposes of testing the pleading, *all*  
2 *material facts properly pleaded, however improbable they may be.* McHugh v. Howard (1958) 165  
3 Cal. App. 2d 169, 174. (Italic emphasis added.)

4 In the present action, for reasons more fully explained hereinbelow, Plaintiff respectfully  
5 maintains that the FAC on file herein contains facts sufficient to constitute the First, Third and  
6 Fourth Causes of Action. If the Court disagrees, however, Plaintiff respectfully requests leave to  
7 allege additional facts and/or amend the Complaint to comply with further orders of this Court.

8 **IV. PLAINTIFF HAS STATED FACTS SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE A CAUSE**

9 “[T]he Privacy Initiative in article I, section 1 of the California Constitution creates a right of  
10 action against private as well as government entities” (Hill v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn.  
11 (1994) 7 Cal. 4th 1, 20), and “protects the individual’s reasonable expectation of privacy against a  
12 serious invasion.” Puerto v. Superior Court (2008) 158 Cal.App.4th 1242, 1250. It is also well  
13 settled that a California employee maintains a right of privacy in his or her employment records. *Id.*  
14 at 1250. (See also Garstang v. Superior Court (1995) 39 Cal.App.4th 526, 533.)

15 In Pioneer Electronics (USA), Inc. v. Superior Court (2007) 40 Cal.4th 360, the California  
16 Supreme Court announced an analytical framework for evaluating claims of invasion of privacy  
17 under the California Constitution. Initially, the claimant must possess a “legally protected privacy  
18 interest.” Second, the claimant must have a reasonable expectation of privacy under the particular  
19 circumstances. Finally, the invasion of privacy must be serious in nature, scope, and actual or  
20 potential impact. (Pioneer, supra, 40 Cal.4th at pp. 370-371.)

21 **1. Officer Dunn has a Legally Protected Privacy Interest in His**  
22 **Employment Records**

23 It is well settled that peace officers have a privacy interest in their employment records. (See,  
24 People v. Mooc (2001) 26 Cal.4th 1216, 1220 (statutory scheme recognizes a peace officer’s  
25 “legitimate expectation of privacy in his or her personnel records”); BRV, Inc. v. Superior Court  
26 (2006) 143 Cal.App.4th 742, 756 (“[p]ublic employees have a legally protected interest in their  
27 personnel files”); San Diego Trolley, Inc. v. Superior Court (2001) 87 Cal.App.4th 1083, 1097  
28 (“personnel records ... are within the scope of the protection provided by the state and federal

1 Constitutions"); Garstang v. Superior Court, *supra* at 533 ("where the communications were  
2 tendered under a guaranty of confidentiality, they are thus manifestly within the Constitution's  
3 protected area of privacy."). The United States Supreme Court has also held that the constitutional  
4 right to privacy protects individuals from government disclosure of personal information. Whalen v.  
5 Roe (1977) 429 U.S. 589, 599-600.

6 Under a long line of cases, then, employees such as Plaintiff Dunn have a legally protected  
7 privacy interest in their personnel records. Therefore, the first part of the Pioneer Electronics  
8 analysis has been satisfied.

9 **2. Officer Dunn's Expectations of Privacy with Respect to His Personnel**  
10 **File is Reasonable Under the Circumstances**

11 Our Supreme Court has recently explained that "in order to establish a reasonable expectation  
12 of privacy, the plaintiff 'must have conducted himself or herself in a manner consistent with an  
13 actual expectation of privacy, i.e., he or she must not have manifested by his or her conduct a  
14 voluntary consent to the invasive actions of defendant.' (Citations.)" Sheehan v. San Francisco  
15 49ers, Ltd. (2009) 45 Cal. 4th 992, 1000. Here, there is no inference that Plaintiff Dunn consented  
16 to any disclosure of his personnel file or the records contained therein. Dunn has thus satisfied the  
17 "consent" element of the analysis.

18 "A 'reasonable' expectation of privacy is an objective entitlement founded on broadly based  
19 and widely accepted community norms." Hill, *supra* at p. 37. The "community norms" in this case,  
20 as set forth in the above line of cases beginning with People v. Mooc, support a conclusion that a  
21 right of privacy exists in an employee's employment records and personnel file. This is undisputed  
22 in the moving papers, and weighs substantially in favor of Plaintiff Dunn.

23 Furthermore, "generalized differences between public and private action may affect privacy  
24 rights differently in different contexts. ... **"[I]f a public or private entity controls access to a vitally**  
25 **necessary item, it may have a correspondingly greater impact on the privacy rights of those**  
26 **with whom it deals."** Hill, *supra* at p. 39. (Emphasis added.) In the present case, then, because the  
27 Defendant (a governmental entity) was the custodian of both the 21-page termination letter and the  
28 Brady letter, the disclosure of same has a "correspondingly greater impact" on Dunn's privacy rights.

1 Lastly, in issues concerning the "invasive conduct of government agencies rather than  
2 private, voluntary organizations," the government has the "burden of establishing that there were no  
3 less intrusive means of accomplishing its legitimate objectives." Sheehan, supra at p. 1002. Here,  
4 there were certainly less intrusive means to combat Plaintiff's press release than disclosing the 21-  
5 page termination letter and the Brady letter. A simply denial would have sufficed. And, more  
6 importantly, Defendant City of Burbank has the burden of establishing that it could use no "less  
7 intrusive means," which it has failed entirely to do in the moving papers.

8 Therefore, the second "prong" of the Pioneer Electronics analysis has been satisfied.

9 **3. Defendants' Privacy Invasion is Serious in Nature, Scope, and Actual or**  
10 **Potential Impact**

11 The governmental disclosure of an employee's personnel records is serious in nature, scope,  
12 and actual or potential impact, as set forth in the above line of cases beginning with People v. Mooc.  
13 Moreover, the 21-page termination letter details an investigation where accusations were made that  
14 Plaintiff "tipped off" an informant and thereby compromised an investigation. Clearly the  
15 unwarranted disclosure of this information is serious in nature, scope, and actual or potential impact.

16 Defendant, however, argues that it was entitled to release Plaintiff's 21-page Termination  
17 Letter and other material under an exception provided by *Penal Code* §832.7(d). Section 832.7(d)  
18 allows the release of certain information from an officer's file to correct certain **false statements**  
19 made by the officer or his representative. However, Subsection (d) is very precise and limited in  
20 application. It states:

21 " (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a department or agency that employs peace or  
22 custodial officers may release factual information concerning a disciplinary investigation if  
23 the officer who is the subject of the disciplinary investigation, or the officer's agent or  
24 representative, publicly makes a statement **he or she knows to be false** concerning the  
25 investigation or the imposition of disciplinary action. Information may not be disclosed by  
26 the peace or custodial officer's employer unless the false statement was published by an  
27 established medium of communication, such as television, radio, or a newspaper. **Disclosure**  
28 **of factual information by the employing agency pursuant to this subdivision is limited**  
**to facts contained in the officer's personnel file concerning the disciplinary investigation**  
**or imposition of disciplinary action that specifically refute the false statements made**  
**public by the peace or custodial officer or his or her agent or representative.** " *Penal*  
*Code* §832.7(d). (Emphasis added.)

Section 832.7(d) does not apply in the case at bar for several reasons. First, neither Plaintiff

1 nor his agents "publicly [made] a statement he or she [knew] to be false concerning the investigation  
2 or the imposition of disciplinary action." (See Dunn Declaration ¶ 3) The only statement released to  
3 the press prior to Defendants' release of Plaintiff's 21-page Termination Letter and other materials,  
4 was a press release ("Press Release") (a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A" to Gresen  
5 Declaration). And, for purposes of the pleading, it can not really be disputed that Plaintiff Dunn  
6 believed that his statements were true.

7 Further, Defendants have not identified in the moving papers even one single fact in the press  
8 release concerning an investigation or disciplinary action that they contend Plaintiff Dunn knew to be  
9 false. Absent such facts, Plaintiff and the Court are left to guess which statement(s) were found to be  
10 objectionable by Defendant. This is a fatal flaw in the moving papers, and may not be cured in the  
11 reply.

12 Even if one assumes, *arguendo*, that the Press Release did contain a false statement  
13 concerning an investigation or disciplinary hearing, Defendants would not have been allowed under  
14 Section 832.7(d) to release Plaintiff's full 21-page Termination Letter. Under Section 832.7(d), the  
15 release allowed is **"limited to facts contained in the officer's personnel file concerning the**  
16 **disciplinary investigation or imposition of disciplinary action that specifically refute the false**  
17 **statements made public."** (Emphasis added.)

18 Defendants exceeded the bounds of Section 832.7(d) when they released the full 21-page  
19 Termination Letter because that letter contained much more than "facts . . . concerning [any]  
20 disciplinary investigation or . . . disciplinary action" that would refute the undisclosed and unknown  
21 statements in the Press Release which Defendant did not describe in the moving papers.

22 Defendants responded to a one-page statement with a 21- page dissertation which, at the end,  
23 admits that Dunn's reputation as a result of the investigation has been irreparably harmed.  
24 Defendants then placed this information into the hands of the media, knowing full well the effect it  
25 would have on the Plaintiff.

26 Furthermore, the 21-page Termination Letter does not contain "facts." Rather, it contains  
27 conclusions and justifications for firing Plaintiff, along with a summation of alleged grounds for the  
28 termination. It is, by definition, a one-sided document designed only to protect Defendants and

1 justify their actions. Plaintiff respectfully maintains that such one-sided conclusions should not  
2 properly be deemed by this Court to be "facts" as the term is used in Section 832.7(d).

3 Therefore, the third and final "prong" of the analysis described in Pioneer Electronics has  
4 been satisfied, such that the motion should properly be denied.

5 **V. THE SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO CONSTITUTE**

6 "The tort of defamation 'involves (a) a publication that is (b) false, (c) defamatory, and (d)  
7 unprivileged, and that (e) has a natural tendency to injure or that causes special damage.'" (5 Witkin,  
8 Summary of Cal. Law (10th ed. 2005) Torts, § 529, p. 782, citing Civ. Code, §§ 45-46 and cases.)  
9 Taus v. Loftus, (2007) 40 Cal. 4th 683, 719.

10 Plaintiff's claim clearly meets each of the above elements. The Complaint states that (a)  
11 statements were "published... in the Burbank Leader" that the DA declared Officer Dunn obstructed  
12 justice and compromised a criminal narcotics investigation. (Complaint ¶ 20). The Complaint  
13 further states that the allegation was false (Complaint ¶ 21), as the DA did not in fact make those  
14 statements.

15 Defendants attempt to insert materials [Exhibit 3 to the Humiston Decl.] outside the four  
16 corners of the Complaint in trying to disprove this point. Exhibit 3 to the Humiston Decl. is  
17 irrelevant and immaterial to a demurrer, which again admits, provisionally, for purposes of testing  
18 the pleading, *all material facts properly pleaded, however improbable they may be*. McHugh, supra.  
19 However, to address the "Brady Letter" issue, the District Attorney had **not** expressed that the  
20 Plaintiff had obstructed justice and compromised a criminal investigation in the letter. The letter  
21 merely states that when the Plaintiff is a material witness on a case, that certain information must be  
22 turned over. The DA's statement is not the same as stating that the it had itself conducted an  
23 investigation which concluded that the Plaintiff had been found to have obstructed justice, because  
24 no such investigation of the Plaintiff had taken place by the DA.

25 **A. The Publication Was False**

26 On July 17, 2009, the Burbank Leader published the following statement made by Defendant  
27 Barlow, "This lawsuit is an abuse of the judicial system by a former officer who was terminated a  
28 year ago for egregious misconduct which led the District Attorney to declare that he had obstructed



1 justice and compromised a criminal narcotics investigation.” (Humiston Decl., Exhibit “3.”) The  
2 implication is clear. Because Dunn was allegedly terminated for “egregious misconduct,” the  
3 District Attorney was beside himself and “declared” that Plaintiff had obstructed justice, etc.

4 The true facts, however, were that Dunn’s “termination” did not “lead the District Attorney”  
5 to declare anything. How could it? The Brady Letter was issued on May 9, 2008, well **before** Dunn  
6 was terminated in July, 2008.

7 The Brady Letter actually states that when the Plaintiff is a material witness on a case, the  
8 DA must turn over to defense counsel information which establishes that Dunn “telephoned a  
9 Burbank Police Department informant, and advised her that the Culver City Police Department was  
10 conducting a criminal investigation into her involvement with narcotics sales.” The Brady Letter  
11 goes on to say that “the Brady Alert System should not be used as a basis for a personnel action  
12 against (Dunn).” Which is a far cry from what Barlow said to the press.

13 As the Complaint clearly states, Plaintiff alleges that the publication was false, thereby  
14 satisfying the first element of the defamation analysis.

15 **B. The Publication Was Unprivileged**

16 In the moving papers, Defendants argue that the publication is protected under the “fair  
17 comment or opinion privilege.” The “fair comment or opinion privilege,” however, provides only  
18 that “statements of **opinion** concerning public officials are recognized as privileged against claims of  
19 libel.” Young v. County of Marin (1987) 195 Cal. App. 3d 863, 872. (Emphasis added.) This is  
20 problematic for the moving party for two reasons.

21 First, Plaintiff Dunn is not a public official. While Plaintiff concedes that police officers  
22 have routinely been held to be “public officials” for the purposes of defamation actions (See, e.g.  
23 Gomes v. Fried (1982) 136 Cal. App. 3d 924, 933), it is undisputed that Plaintiff Dunn is not a police  
24 officer, and has not been a police officer since July, 2008. At the time the press release was issued in  
25 July, 2009, Plaintiff was simply a private citizen who expressed his discontent with his employer for  
26 what he honestly believed to be a discriminatory termination. For this reason, alone, the publication  
27 was unprivileged.

28 And even assuming that this Court concludes that Plaintiff was a public official (*which*

1 *Plaintiff does not concede*), no privilege exists so long as "actual malice" (knowledge of falsity or  
2 reckless disregard for the truth) is shown. See New York Times Co. v. Sullivan (1964) 376 U.S.  
3 254.

4 Clearly, Barlow either knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known,  
5 that the Brady Letter predated Plaintiff's termination, and therefore could not have "led the District  
6 Attorney to declare that (Dunn) had obstructed justice and compromised an ... investigation."  
7 Barlow also knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known, that the Brady  
8 Letter should "not be used as a basis for a personnel action," and he should not have implied that the  
9 DA personally investigated and reached **any** conclusion about Dunn's alleged conduct.

10 **C. The Publication Was Defamatory**

11 Under *Civil Code* § 46, a statement is defamatory if it "[c]harges any person with having  
12 been indicted, convicted, or punished for crime" or "[t]ends directly to injure him in respect to his  
13 office, profession, trade or business," among other things. Stating that the DA conducted an  
14 investigation and found him guilty of crimes of moral turpitude, when no such DA investigation  
15 occurred, is clearly defamatory.

16 Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully maintains that he has correctly pled the elements of a  
17 defamation action such that Defendant's demurrer should properly be denied.

18 **VI. THE FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION STATES FACTS SUFFICIENT TO MANDATE**  
19 **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

20 Injunctive relief is a remedy which is derivative of the other causes of action. Because  
21 Plaintiff has stated a valid claim for an invasion of privacy and for defamation, Plaintiff respectfully  
22 maintains that this remedy should remain intact - however inartfully pleaded..

23 **VII. DEFENDANT'S CLAIM OF IMMUNITY MUST FAIL**

24 **A. Government Code §821.6 Does Not Apply**

25 It is well settled that the immunity set forth in Section 821.6 "protect(s) public employees  
26 from liability only for malicious prosecution" actions. Sullivan v. County of Los Angeles (1974) 12  
27 Cal. 3d 710, 719-720. "Our narrow interpretation of section 821.6's immunity, **confining its reach**  
28 **to malicious prosecution actions**, finds corroboration in another governmental immunity provision,

1 section 820.4 discussed above.” *Id.*, at p.721. (See also Garcia v. City of Merced (2008) U.S. Dist  
2 LEXIS 2135, approving of the Sullivan ruling: “Section 821.6 immunity is generally perceived as  
3 prosecutorial immunity and immunity from malicious prosecution. Kayfetz v. State of California  
4 (1987) 156 Cal.App.3d 491; accord Citizens Capital Corp v. Spohn (1982) 133 Cal.App.3d 887.)

5 Because this case is not for malicious prosecution, *Government Code* § 821.6 is inapplicable  
6 and should properly be disregarded by this Court.

7 **B. Defendant’s Cases Are Distinguishable**

8 The cases cited by Defendant are all distinguishable from the case at bar. Kim v. Walker  
9 (1989) 208 Cal. App. 3d 375, relied upon by Defendants, is inapplicable because “all of Kim’s  
10 allegations of defamation . . . took place either during communications with parole agents or during  
11 judicial proceedings, or other official proceedings authorized by law.” Kim, *supra*, at p. 381. In  
12 contrast, Plaintiff’s personnel records were disseminated to the **press** in this case, not to the Court.

13 In Citizens Capital Corp. v. Spohn (1982) 133 Cal.App.3d 887 (also relied upon by  
14 Defendants), the court based its holding entirely on the Supreme Court’s opinion in Kilgore v.  
15 Younger (1982) 30 Cal.3d 770. There is no mention of §821.6 in Kilgore, *supra*, nor is there any  
16 reference in either case to disclosure of confidential information to the press. Moreover, Citizens  
17 Capital Corp. is no longer good law, as it has been superseded by statute (*Government Code* §  
18 821.6). (See Clarke v. Upton, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 38206.) Thus, Citizens Capital Corp., *supra*,  
19 should properly be disregarded by this Court.

20 Defendants also rely on Cappuccio, Inc. v. Harmon (1989) 208 Cal. App. 3d 1496, in which  
21 a state fish and game investigator was found to have immunity for making statements to the press.  
22 What Defendants left out of their moving papers, however, is that the plaintiffs “were found guilty  
23 by the Monterey County Superior Court of 592 violations of former Fish and Game Code section  
24 8011,” and that the statements to the press were made after the guilty verdict. *Id.*, at p. 1498. In  
25 enforcing Section 821.6 and finding immunity, the Court held that the statements made by the  
26 warden were in furtherance of the **prosecution** by Monterey County, such that the Capuccio action  
27 was really one for malicious prosecution. *Id.*, at pp. 1500-1502.

28 Because there was no **prosecution** in this case, Cappuccio, Inc. v. Harmon is factually

1 inapposite to the case at bar and should properly be disregarded by this Court.

2 **C. Civil Code §47(b) Does Not Apply to Statements Made to the Press**

3 Defendants argue that they are immune from liability for their actions under the litigation  
4 privilege found in California *Civil Code* §47(b). However, in Rothman v. Jackson (1996) 49  
5 Cal.App.4th 1134, the court held that statements made by an attorney to the press are not protected  
6 by the litigation privilege in Civil Code §47(b). The court explained:

7 "The defendants have suggested no way in which the purposes of the litigation privilege  
8 are furthered by extending it to press conferences and press releases. Lawyers are not  
9 prevented from the most zealous advocacy for their clients by a wholesale rule which  
10 precludes the privileged vilification of opponents on the public stage--in this case, on a world  
11 stage. Such a rule does not stop lawyers from insisting in public that their clients are  
12 innocent of charges made by opponents. Indeed, under the policy choice that is implicit in  
13 the litigation privilege, no inhibitions are imposed upon the rhetoric an attorney may use in  
14 official court papers, pleadings and arguments. However, . . . attorneys who wish to litigate  
15 Amendment to the United States Constitution and all principles which protect speech and  
16 expression generally, but without the mantle of an absolute immunity." Rothman v. Jackson  
17 (1996) 49 Cal.App.4th 1134, 1148-1149.

18 Thus, Plaintiff respectfully maintains that Defendants' conduct is not protected by Civil Code

19 §47(b).

20 **D. Government Code Sections 818.8 and 822.2 are Inapplicable**

21 Defendants also claim immunity under *Government Code* sections 818.8 and 822.2.  
22 However, these sections only provide immunity for certain types of fraud and deceit of a financial  
23 nature, not present in the case at bar. (See, e.g. Adkins v. State (1996) 50 Cal.App.4th 1802; Tur v.  
24 City of Los Angeles (1996) 51 Cal.App. 4th 897; Michael J. v. Los Angeles County Dept. of  
25 Adoptions (1988) 201 Cal.App.3d 859.) For this reason alone, the disputed Sections are inapplicable  
26 to the case at bar.

27 Furthermore, Defendant admits that the *Government Code* sections 818.8 and 822.2  
28 immunities are inapplicable if Defendants actions were committed with malice. (Demurrer p.4 lines  
29 7-10). As more fully described above, Barlow either knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence  
30 should have known, that the Brady Letter predated Plaintiff's termination, and therefore could not  
31 have "led the District Attorney to declare that (Dunn) had obstructed justice and compromised an ...  
32 investigation." Barlow also knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known, that

1 the Brady Letter should "not be used as a basis for a personnel action," and he should not have  
2 implied that the DA personally investigated and reached **any** conclusion about Dunn's alleged  
3 conduct.

4 Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully maintains that the immunities as set forth in *Government*  
5 *Code* sections 818.8 and 822.2 are inapplicable to the case at bar.

6 **VI. CONCLUSION**

7 For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff respectfully maintains that and every element of the  
8 causes of action set forth in the Complaint have been sufficiently pled. Therefore, and for reasons  
9 fully set forth in detail above, Plaintiff respectfully maintains that Defendant's demurrer is entirely  
10 without merit and respectfully requests that it be denied. Should the Court rule otherwise, Plaintiff  
11 respectfully requests that leave be granted such that he can amend the Complaint to comply with any  
12 further Orders of the Court.

13 Respectfully submitted.

14  
15 Dated: September 25, 2009

LAW OFFICES OF RHEUBAN & GRESEN

16  
17 By 

18 JOSEPH M. LEVY, ESQ.

19 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Christopher Dunn  
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